

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-21, 23-26, 33 and 34 are pending. Claims 1, 9-11, 16-18, 25-26 and 33-34 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 12 and 13 would be allowed if written in independent form. In this response, claims 1-2, 5, 10-11, 13 and 16-18 amended, and claims 3-4, 9, 12, 14-15, 20-21, 23-24 and 33-34 are cancelled without prejudice.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action sets forth at page 3, paragraph 4 "claims 1, 9-11, 16-18, 25-26 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumi ... in view of Shinohara ... and further in view of Inazumi ..." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome by the amendments to the claims for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants have added the features of allowable claim 12 and claim 9, from which it depends into independent claim 1. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Applicants have similarly amended claim 18 to include the allowable features of claim 12 as well as intervening claim 9. Accordingly Applicants submit that claim 18 is likewise in condition for allowance.

Claims 10-11, 13, 16-17 and 25-26 depend upon allowable claims 1 or 18 and, thus, are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 18.

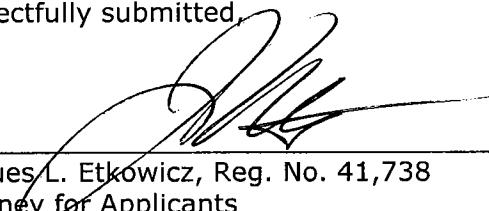
Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 2, 5, 7 and 19 which are dependent on allowable claims 1 or 18.

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Amendment Dated January 12, 2010
Reply to Office Action of October 15, 2009

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In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above Applicants submit the above-identified application is in condition which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/nm

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

NM603652